(e) The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export Promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation, efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other promotional institutions.

Restructuring of Indian Coal Industry

1007. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned 500 million dollars and International Development Agency 63 million dollars investment loan for restructuring of the Indian Coal Industry;

(b) the details of the restructuring envisaged by the Government; and

(c) the plans of utilisation of this investment loan by India in terms of projects and their completion dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The World Bank has approved an IDA Credit of 43.3 million SDR (US $ 63 million) for Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project of Coal India Limited (CIL). The project inter-alia envisages carrying out Environment Action Plans, Rehabilitation Action Plans, etc. at 25 identified coal projects of CIL. The loan will be received on quarterly basis over five-year period starting July 23, 1996.

Targets fixed under the Prime Minister's Employment Scheme

1008. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments and Union Territories have embarked upon a scheme to provide employment under Prime Minister's Employment Scheme;

(b) if so, the targets fixed thereunder;

(c) whether the State Governments and the Union Territories have called for applications from the people in their respective States/ Union Territories; and

(d) if so, the number of people who have applied under the scheme and how many of them have been provided with employment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana a target of assistance to 7 lakh educated unemployed youth for self employment ventures was fixed for the last 4 years of VIII Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) States/U.Ts normally call for applications. Since 1993-94 to 1996-97 (upto Sept., 96) 25,96,798 people have applied for loan under the scheme. Loans have been sanctioned in 5,76,041 cases, and disbursed in 3,50,957 cases. Sample studies conducted have shown that an enterprise, when it becomes operational provides employment on an average to 2 persons under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

Enlargement in the scope and functions of FIPB

1009. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a major enlargement in the scope and functions of a restricted Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB);

(b) if so, whether the Cabinet has approved reforming of FIPB;

(c) if so, the main proposals regarding its functioning; and

(d) by what time a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government have recently on 11.7.96, with the approval of the Cabinet, re-constituted the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). FIPB has been re-constituted with a view to promote the inflow of foreign direct investment in India—(i) by undertaking investment promotion activities and (ii) through